Forest reports

1132. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State of Forest Report have been published by Government;

(b) if so, whether copies will be made available to Members of Parliament;

(c) if not published, by when those will be published; and

(d) what steps are being taken for their early publication?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) State of Forest Report, 1995 has been published in 1996.

(b) Copies of State of Forest Report, 1995 are being made available in the Library of Parliament.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Diversion of forest land in Melghat area

1133. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how much forest land in the Melghat Area of Amravati District of Maharashtra has been diverted for non-forest purposes during the last ten years with the permission of Government;

(b) what were the reasons for such diversion;

(c) how much land has been illegally diverted;

(d) what action is contemplated for this illegal diversion; and

(e) what steps will be taken to protect the forest efficiently?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

Problems faced by adivasis of Melghat forest reserves

1134. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the local adivasis living in the reserved forests of Melghat in Amravati District of Maharashtra have made several complaints over the last few years about the highhandedness of the forest officials;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to redress these complaints; and

(c) what steps will be taken to see that the local population in the reserve forests is protected?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

Growth/Decline of Melghat Region Forest Cover

1135. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the growth or decline of the forest cover of the Melghat region in Amravati District of Maharashtra;

(b) what steps are being taken to protect the forest in Melghat;

(c) whether local Adivasis are put to great hardships in the process of pricking the forest; and

(d) what steps are being taken to help the poor adivasis living in the forests of Melghat?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

International Basel Agreement

1136. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEV SHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have adhered to the International Basel Agreement trading in toxic waste;

(b) whether it is act that inspite of the ban under the Basel agreement a number of Indian as well as multi-national companies are dumping toxic waste in the country; and

(c) if so, the details of the companies in posting such toxic waste in the country during the last 3 years alongwith the details of the toxic waste banned under the Basel agreement and the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) India ratified the Basel Convention on 24th June, 1992. As per amendments to be Basel Convention adopted in the Third Conference of Parties (COP-3) held in 1995, transboundary movement of hazardous wastes destined for disposal from States listed in Annexure-VII to States not listed in Annexure-VII was prohibited and all transboundary movements of wastes characterised as hazardous under Article 1(i)(a) of the Convention destined for reource recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct reuse or alternative uses were decided to be prohibited from 31st December, 1997. Being a party to the Convention, it is binding on India to adher to the decision.

(b) and (c) The import of hazardous wastes is regulated under Rule-11 of the Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989, notified by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. According to these Rules (Rule-11), the import of hazardous wastes from any country to India is not permited for dumping and disposal. However, import of such wastes is allowed for processing or reuse as raw materials, after examining each case on merit. Any import of hazardous wastes would come under the purview of these rules.

The Technical Group (TWG) of the Basel Convention in its 12th Session finalised a draft position paper detailing lists of wastes (List-A, B and C) List-A consists of wastes characterised as hazardous under Article 1(i) a and will be subject to the transboundary movement ban for recovery and reuse. The draft position paper will be considered for adoption in the Fourth sitting of the Conference of Parties (COP-4) to be held in October, 1997. On adoption, the list will be binding on the Parties.

वन-नीति की समीक्षा

1137. **श्री नागमणि:**
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार वन नीति की समीक्षा करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसकी पृष्ठभूमि सहित तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या इस समीक्षा के अंतर्गत वन्यजीव (संरक्षण) अधिनियम और पर्यावरण संरक्षण अधिनियम को अद्यतन बनाना भी शामिल है;